

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8384

S E C R E T SEOUL 10821

NODIS/STADIS

FOR EA GLEYSTEN FROM SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR

1. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM ANOTHER DIFFICULT SESSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND IT IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THERE IS LITTLE IF NO GIVE LEFT ON THE KOREAN SIDE. FONMIN HAD BEEN THROUGH A RUGGED SESSION WITH TOP GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP WHO REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED JOINT STATEMENT AND MPAA WITH ONE EXCEPTION, CLEARLY NOT BEFORE GIVING HIM A TOUGH OUTING.

2. KOREANS KNOW THAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED VERY DISTINCT RISKS, BOTH IN POSSIBILITY OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY TONGSUN PARK AND MAJOR LOOPHOLES ON OUR COMMITMENT TO RETURN HIM TO KOREA. THEY HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED ONEROUS TASK OF DELIVERING TONGSUN PARK TO US, ALTHOUGH WISHING TO DO THIS WITH MINIMUM OF OVERT PRESSURE SHOWING PUBLICLY. THESE HAVE BEEN TOUGH PILLS FOR ROKS TO SWALLOW, BUT THEY HAVE DONE SO.

3. OVER PAST WEEK IT HAS ALSO BEEN EVIDENT THAT KOREANS ARE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY WHAT THEY VIEW AS A CON-

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TINUING EFFORT ON OUR PART TO RAISE THE ANTE. FOR EXAMPLE, TONGSUN PARK LETTER WAS INITIALLY TO CONSIST OF SIMPLE ASSURANCE HE WOULD GO TO U.S.; THEN WE ADDED CONDITION OF TRUTHFUL TESTIMONY AND AGREEMENT TO PLOYGRAPH EXAMINATION; FINALLY YESTERDAY WE ADDED AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE ON BASIS JOINT STATEMENT AND MPAA. AGAIN, AFTER GIVING ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT THAT WE WOULD NOT INTERROGATE PARK ON KOREAN

OFFICIALS, ETC., WE ADDED POSITION WHICH TO KOREANS OPENS WAY FOR QUESTIONING ON RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENT PARK -- FROM THE BEGINNING A CLEAR IMPOSSIBILITY FOR ROKG.

4. NEGOTIATIONS WITH HUNDLEY AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAVE FROM KOREAN VIEWPOINT ALSO IMPOSED ADDITIONAL UNFORE-SEEN COMPLICATION NOT RAISED BY US IN FIRST STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS. AS YOU MUST REALIZE, KOREANS ARE FULLY AWARE

OF ALL PARK/HUNDLEY CONVERSATIONS AND HOW PARK/HUNDLEY ARE TRYING TO PLAY OFF HUNDLEY'S NEGOTIATIONS AGAINST OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS.

5. I HAVE ARGUED VIGOROUSLY AND ENDLESSLY AS HAS BILL CLARK TO GET OUR FULL POSITION ACCEPTED. I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO SYMPATHY HERE FOR TONGSUN PARK, AND PARTICULARLY HIS TAX AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, AND EVERY DESIRE TO COMPLETE SUCCESSFULLY REPEAT SUCCESSFULLY THSE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. BUT, I THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME WE GAVE THE KOREANS A LITTLE BIT OF ROOM AND ACCEPT POSSIBLY A FEW RISKS ON OUR SIDE, ALTHOUGH I THINK THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY MINIMAL COMPARED TO THOSE ACCEPTED BY THE KOREANS. IN THE END WE WILL HAVE FULL CONTROL OF TONGSUN PARK ONCE HE COMES TO THE U.S. AND THE KOREANS RECOGNIE AND ACCEPT THIS FACT, WHATEVER THE RISKS MAY BE FOR THEM.

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6. WITH THESE VIEWS IN MIND, I HAVE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH I TRUST WILL BRING THIS AFFAIR TO A CLOSE FOR THE PRESENT:

A. WE AGREE TO AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN MYSELF AND TONGSUN PARK RATHER THAN SEEKING A REVISION OF HIS LETTER AND IN THAT LETTER SPECIFY ONLY HIS AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT AND THE MPAA, WITHOUT GOING INTO SUCH DETAILS AS TRUTHFUL TESTIMONY AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY REPETITIVE AND UNNECESSARY.

B. THAT WE ACCEPT PROPOSED DELETION IN PARA EIGHT OF THE MPAA, RECOGNIZING FULL WELL THAT THE INTERROGATION PROCESS ITSELF MAY LAP OVER INTO QUESTIONS ON KOREAN OFFICIALS "CONCERNING OR OCCURRING IN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. OFFICIALS."

7. I TRUST THAT YOU CAN CONVINCE THE OTHERS INVOLVED THAT NEITHER OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS INVOLVES ANY SACRIFICE IN THE BASIC SUBSTANCE OF OUR POSITION AND THEY WILL NOT ONLY FACILITATE AN EARLY AGREEMENT BUT ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ASSURING CONTINUED KOREAN COOPERATION IN THE FINAL CONCLUSION OF THE TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL10821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR EA GLEYSTEN FROM SNEIDER
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850067-2566
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771221/aaaaarme.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3bbccaafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 138535
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US, (TONGSUN PARK)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3bbccaafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009